(b) if so, whether the Central Government have conducted any inquiry regarding the illegal cutting of the teak wood trees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the concerned State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Total Prohibition

3721. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose total prohibition in the country;

(b) if so, when a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the States/UTs is likely to be held in this regard;

(c) whether the revenue loss be considered there at; and

(d) the details of other issues proposed to be discussed?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No Sir, there is no such proposal.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Torture of Children

3722. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned "Children Routinely Tortured In India" appearing in Hindustan Times, dated November 14, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the reported figures regarding the deaths of children in the police custody are correct; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Facts are being ascertained. The requisite information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trafficking of Foreign Currency

3723. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have detected illegal trafficking of foreign currency in Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign currency seized State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the illegal trafficking of foreign currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Wheat and Other Commodities

3724. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Governments of Maharashtra and Kerala had demanded increase in allocation of wheat and other commodities for distribution through the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conceded the demand of the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to concede the demands?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from State Governments including Maharashtra and Kerala for additional allocations. Allocation of Public Distribution System (PDS) items are made to States/UTs on month to month basis keeping in view the demand received from various States/UTs, their relative needs, stocks in the Central Pool, seasonal availability and offtake trends, etc.

Government of Maharashtra has requested for increase in their monthly sugar quota from 33550 MTs to 43157.3 MTs, rice and wheat at one lakh MTs and 1.2 lakh MTs respectively. While monthly allocation of rice of Maharashtra continues at 71,500 MTs., the monthly allocation of wheat has been increased from 80,000 MTs to 85,000 MTs for January, 1997. Kerala Government have demanded for increase in monthly quota of foodgrains from 1,50,000 MTs of rice and 50,000 MTs of wheat to 1,50,000 MTs of rice and 60,000 MTs of wheat. However, the allocation of foodgrains for